



SDMS Doc ID 2014644

2014644

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to respectfully express our deep concern with media reports that the Administration has asked U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists and regulators to refrain from commenting on perchlorate.

A recent report from the Environmental Working Group raises serious concerns about perchlorate contamination in food. According to the report, 18 percent of lettuce samples contained detectable levels of perchlorate, and an average serving of these contaminated samples contained four times more than the EPA says is safe in drinking water. Further, the study estimated that 1.6 million women of childbearing age are exposed daily during the winter months to more perchlorate than the EPA's recommended safe dose.

Perchlorate, the explosive component of rocket and missile fuel, can affect the thyroid gland's ability to make essential hormones. Also, perchlorate poses a variety of serious health risks relating to thyroid function, especially in newborns, children and pregnant women. Exposure to perchlorate interferes with the thyroid gland's ability to produce hormones needed for normal prenatal development. This can cause both physical and mental retardation. It has also been linked to thyroid cancer.

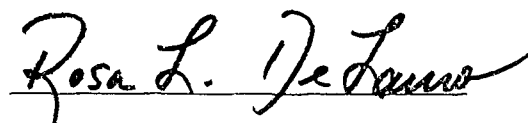
Perchlorate is known or suspected to be a contaminant in hundreds of locations in 43 states. It has been confirmed in more than 100 drinking water sources in 19 states including Texas, California, Arizona, Nebraska, Iowa, New York, Maryland and Massachusetts.

For years, the EPA has not established a standard for perchlorate to protect the public health. Now that this chemical has entered the food and drinking water supply, it is critical that we address this situation swiftly. We cannot exacerbate the problem by ignoring the possible contamination of our food and water.

It is clear that perchlorate poses a severe public health risk and that it has contaminated water sources serving well over 20 million people. Therefore, we urge you to immediately lift the gag order and allow EPA scientists and regulators to respond to this serious public health threat.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jana G. Esch

Zee Lutz

John Whipple

Martin D. Babo

George Miller

Donald R. Beyer

Cale E. Childs

Greg N. Costello

Earl Blumenauer

Nita Lowey

Ernie

Trip Ty

Michael M. Hanks

Jim Oberstar

Ken A. Waxman

Michael R. McNulty

Edward J. Markey

Joe Harman

Corrine Brown

Jerold Nadler

Charles B. Weldon

Barack

Mark Bessie

Aris Bell

Sam B. Schiff

Steve Tamm

Mike Thompson

Steven Nathan

Jim Cox

Rich Rubin

Sam Larr

John W. Oliver

Andre J. Sanchez

John F. Turner

Lloyd D. ~~1984~~

Frank Pallone, Jr

Jon L. Halcyon

Hilda L. Solis

Grace D. Napolitano

Rail M. Trujillo

Loretta Sanchez

Anna R. Davis

Jim McNeill

Stephane P. Jones

Bob Filner

Robert Menendez

Tom Lantos

Edith L. Engel

Pete Stark

Barbara Lee

Cleaver

Jim V. Gutz

Margaret D. Dwyer

Lynn Woolsey

Betty McColl

Letter to President Bush (5/23/03)**Re: Reported Gag Order on EPA Scientists and Regulators – Perchlorate****Page 1**

Lois Capps Rosa DeLauro

Page 2

Anna Eshoo	Timothy Bishop
Zoe Lofgren	Michael Honda
John Dingell	Jim Oberstar
Martin Olav Sabo	Henry Waxman
George Miller	Michael McNulty
Donald Payne	Edward Markey
Dale Kildee	Jane Harman
Jerry Costello	Corrine Brown
Earl Blumenauer	Jerrold Nadler
Nita Lowey	Carolyn Maloney
Ed Towns	Bernie Sanders

Page 3

Mark Udall	John Tierney
Chris Bell	Lloyd Doggett
Adam Schiff	Frank Pallone
Steve Israel	Jan Schakowsky
Mike Thompson	Hilda Solis
Steven Rothman	Grace Napolitano
Jim Cooper	Raul Grijalva
William Delahunt	Loretta Sanchez
Sam Farr	Susan Davis
John Olver	Jim McDermott
Linda Sanchez	Stephanie Tubbs-Jones

Page 4

Bob Filner	Eleanor Holmes Norton
Robert Menendez	Luis Gutierrez
Tom Lantos	Maurice Hinchey
Eliot Engel	Lynn Woolsey
Pete Stark	Betty McCollum
Barbara Lee	